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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/795,905 | 03/08/2004 | Jerry H. Roberts | 20002.120 | 1531 |
| 7590 | 08/26/2005 | | EXAMINER | |
| Christopher J. Fildes Fildes & Outland, P.C. 20916 Mack Avenue, Suite 2. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 | | | KENNEDY, SHARON E | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3762 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Application No. | 10/795,905 | Applicant(s) | ROBERTS ET AL. |
| Examiner | Sharon Kennedy | Art Unit | 3762 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-9, 11-14 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action or the MPEP.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated Kornerup, US 5,685,859. See figure 6 and the description therein. Note that elongate strip 143 flanks both sides of elongated section 160. Note that groove 165 may be provided with adhesive thereon. See Kornerup column 7, lines 21-23.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boyd, US 3,834,380. Regarding claim 1, clamping tube 20 anticipates the claimed *conformable* base. Note that column 3, lines 5-6 describes the split plastic tubing as flexible and resilient.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornerup, US 5,685,859 in view of Bierman, US 6,689,104. Regarding claim 8, it would be an obvious engineering design choice to provide removable release liner on any adhesive coated surface in a bandage type applicance. In addition, note Bierman shows this concept is well known. See release layer 26 on the front page of the patent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 10 is directed to the locking strips comprising perforations so that they can be removed from the center portion. Normally, making a device separable as opposed to integral is *prima facie* obvious as set forth MPEP 2144.04 V. C., entitled, "Making Separable." However, in the instant situation, the tubing/catheter may be removed by tearing the perforations in the locking strip. This is important because catheters frequently need changing, however, the catheter support may be left on the patient. This is helpful for patients with sensitive skin, such as premature infants or the elderly. Often removing the catheter support is irritating and painful. In addition, none of the prior art shows a tearable support strip in this type of catheter support dressing.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharon Kennedy whose telephone number is 571/272-4948. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on 571/272-6996.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained by going to www.uspto.gov, clicking on "Status &IFW", entering the application number, and then clicking on one of the tabs to retrieve the appropriate information.


Sharon Kennedy
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3762